

The First 100 Hours of the New Congress

Written by Mike Honda
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Throughout 2006, I wrote about commitments that Democrats would fulfill if the American public entrusted us with the majority. With their votes, the American people cast their ballots in favor of this New Direction, and now that the 110th Congress has convened, we are living up to those commitments.

Fixing the broken Rules of the House

Last week we implemented new rules for the House that will make this the most honest, ethical and open Congress in history. The package also brings civility to the legislative debate – committing to a fair and open process for amendments, guaranteeing time to read legislation, and ensuring that the minority can participate in [Conference Committees](#) . We also restored pay-as-you-go budgeting – which will begin to reverse the record budget deficits that are passing on trillions in debt to our children and grandchildren – and put in place transparency measures to end the abuse of special-interest earmarks.

This week, we will begin to pass the elements of our “Six for ‘06” agenda, a series of common-sense proposals to improve the everyday lives of all Americans by addressing critical economic, health care, and educational concerns of ordinary families.

9/11 Commission Recommendations

On Tuesday, we will implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, making America safer by enhancing homeland security, strengthening efforts to stop the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and promoting strategies to reduce the appeal of radical extremism. [H.R. 1](#) will:

- increase the share of state homeland security grant provided on the basis of risk